

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH--SUNDAY, JANUARY 16 1887

EASTERN SHORE.

TROUBLE FATAL KEROSINE ACCIDENT IN ACCOMACK.

Easterning a Fire by Pouring Oil on It-The Oyster Tax—
Illustration.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

ONANOCO, January 13, 1887.

No water reached here of a sad accident that happened several days ago near Wachapreague, a village on the south side of Accomack. The twelve-year-old son of Mr. William Hickman attempted to start a fire in a stove by pouring kerosene oil on the burning wood, when the oil can exploded, scattering the blazing fluid on the unfortunate boy and wrapping him in a sheet of flame. Frantic with fright and pain, the boy rushed out of the burning house into the barnyard, where his father caught him and extinguished the flames by throwing him into a ditch filled with ice and snow. The boy was frightenedly turned about the face, arms, and breast, and his injuries are so severe that his recovery is considered very doubtful.

The collection of the oyster-tax in Accomack for the first quarter of this session amounts to \$2,500, of which something more than \$8,000 will go to the State Treasury for the support of the oyster navy.

The wife of Rev. John McNabb, rector of this Episcopal parish, and an infant child of Rev. A. N. Compton, pastor of the Southern Methodist church here, have been dangerously ill for some time past.

The weather has been growing milder here for the past two days, but the ice still blocks up our harbor and interrupts navigation. The cold spell has been one of unusual severity for the Eastern Shore, where the climate is greatly moderated by the influence of the bay and ocean, and especially of the warm easterly winds that bring much warmth from the Gulf stream, which is not so far from our coast as many people might suppose.

KELLIAS.

AN ODD MAN OF GOTHAM.

We venture out only after dark and live on good whiskey.

(Mail and Express.)

An old cab-driver, whose face is familiar to frequenters of the Fifth-Avenue Hotel, leaned against an electric-light pole one night this week and meditatively pulled at a twenty-five-cent cigar. He blew the smoke through his nose, tasted it, and went through all the manevres of a *cigarist*.

"I've been around this neighborhood for fifteen years," said he, "and every night at exactly 11:30, I am at my stand, along comes an old thoroughbred and carries me with a quarter cigar. He's a gent, he is, not one of your men for a quarter with a bundle of cigars thrown in."

RUSSIA'S ARMY.

"What chance do you think Austria would have single-handed against Russia?" I continued.

"Standing single-handed I think she would be beaten."

"Has the Russian army improved so much then?"

"The discipline in the Russian army is admirable. The soldiers are blindly obedient. The Russian artillery is numerically strong, if the Russian gunners are inferior to the German. The Russian cavalry is numerous and easily mobilized. For all that it is not so formidable as people make out."

RATHER A LARGE ORDER.

"Could Germany, in your opinion, sustain war alone with France and Russia?"

"The German army is in a magnificent condition and ready to cope successfully with any other one Power. To expect it to hold its own single-handed against its two most powerful neighbors is unfair, and if Europe—I mean Austria, England, and Italy—ever allowed Germany to be crushed, they would surely deserve to be crushed in turn, as assuredly they would be. Germany's strength is a necessity for peace-loving Europe."

GERMANY'S FRONTIER GUARISONS.

"Is it true that the German garrisons on the Polish frontier are being strengthened?"

"If they are not strengthened already they will certainly be when the new bill passes. There is some apprehension here lest the Bohemian cavalry should invade Silesia and the adjoining provinces. They would, however, soon find their roads blocked by the German infantry, against which they would be powerless."

"What of the French reports that the Germans are massing enormous forces in Alsace-Lorraine?"

"They are exaggerated. The only forces on the French frontier available for immediate service are the Fifteenth army corps, which is on a peace-footing, and about thirty thousand strong, and the Fourteenth Faden army corps, which numbers about twenty-four thousand."

MONEY MAKES THE MARE TO GO.

"Is not the French artillery superior to that of Germany?"

"Yes, both in numbers and calibre. The Germans are quite alive to the fact and appreciate its seriousness. In the next war artillery will no doubt be a most important factor. On a peace footing the French have six batteries to Germany's four—a great advantage. It all a question of money. Germany can't afford more, and I hear from German officers that even if the army bill passes they will not increase the strength or number of their batteries. As a set of them I think the German gunners are better trained, better marksmen, and better disciplined. Discipline is the great strength of Germany; want of discipline the great weakness of the French. So long as their enemies lack discipline the Germans will not fear them."

MELINITE.

"But have not the French another advantage in this wonderful explosive they have discovered—melinite?"

"Certainly. The Germans are quite alive to that, too; but, *entre nous*, it would not surprise me if they had discovered something very similar themselves."

"Do you think Russia would venture a movement in Central Asia this spring?"

"No; she will have her hands full with Bulgaria. There may be 10,000 Russian troops in Central Asia, but hardly 50,000 would reach India when they had done with Afghanistan."

THE SICK MAN'S ALIMENT.

"What do you suppose the 'Grand Turk' would do in the event of war?"

"Oh, temporize as usual and go in when compelled to win any Power that slipped the proper amount of money into his hand."

"If I am not mistaken," said he, "the position France here is less bitter than toward Russia. The Germans seem willing to let France alone if she does not worry them, but would be rather glad of a pretext for going for Russia?"

"Yes; I think that is so."

"And when do you suppose war would break out if it does break out?"

"About May. The Russians could hardly move earlier."

A young English swell, who claimed to be a cousin of the Earl of Shrewsbury and who was always borrowing money on the strength of expected remittances, has been victimizing the upper crust of Pittsburgh society. He left the city suddenly several days ago to accept an illegal invitation to visit the British Minister at Washington, and it is thought he will not come back.

He had given up all hopes of attracting friendly assistance, after shouting till his voice failed him, and determined to meet his fate as best he could. Schier felt his limbs growing numb, and knew that he would freeze to death if chance did not come quickly to his rescue. He tried to crawl, but his broken leg caused such pain that he was compelled to abandon that pain which he had given up all hope of attracting friendly assistance, after shouting till his voice failed him, and determined to meet his fate as best he could. Schier felt his limbs growing numb, and knew that he would freeze to death if chance did not come quickly to his rescue. He tried to crawl, but his broken leg caused such pain that he was compelled to abandon that pain which he had given up all hope of attracting friendly assistance, after shouting till his voice failed him, and determined to meet his fate as best he could. 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